



OHIO EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

Scott W. DiMauro, President
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The OEA will lead the way for continuous improvement of public education while advocating for members and the learners they serve.

December 8, 2023

The Honorable Gayle Manning
Representative, Ohio House District 52
77 South High St., Floor 11
Columbus, OH 43215

Dear Representative Manning:

On behalf of the 120,000 members of the Ohio Education Association (OEA), I write this letter to express deep disappointment and dissatisfaction with your vote of “yes” to favorably report Substitute Senate Bill (SB) 83 out of the House Higher Education Committee on Wednesday, December 6, 2023.

SB 83, the Higher Education “Destruction” Act, would immutably change the course of the working and learning conditions of faculty, staff, and students on Ohio’s public university and college campuses. Furthermore, SB 83 represents the largest attack on collective bargaining rights in Ohio since Senate Bill 5 in 2011. If passed, the current version of the bill would eliminate the collective bargaining rights of faculty to negotiate over core working condition issues – tenure, evaluations, and retrenchment – and censor the academic freedom and free speech rights afforded on our public university and college campuses. Without a doubt, SB 83, if enacted, will drive away higher education staff and students, give pause for those wishing to come to Ohio to further their careers or education, and negatively impact the economic benefits that our institutions of higher education have promoted in our great state.

We have had a productive and close working relationship with your office over the years to protect the rights of working people and Ohio’s public education system. However, your vote to strip bargaining rights away from public employees and hinder free speech and academic freedoms of students and faculty across this state give us grave concern over whether we can continue to count on your support for sound public education policies or to protect the collective bargaining rights of Ohioans.

OEA is engaging our members in your district over your vote and hope that you consider our collective opposition to this legislation. We ask that you heed the concerns raised in this letter and contained in the thousands of letters and testimonies in opposition to SB 83. We ask that if this bill is up for a vote before the full Ohio House, you stand with us and vote “no.”

Sincerely,

Scott DiMauro
President

